

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
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March 7, 1978

Dr. William Goffman
Health Sciences
The Rockefeller Foundation
1133 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036

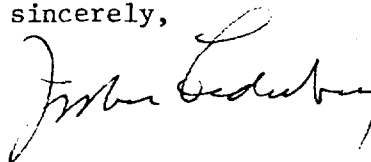
Dear Dr. Goffman:

Thank you for advising me of the forthcoming conference on Quality-Based Information Systems. As, during the next few months, I am somewhat in limbo between Rockefeller University and Stanford, it is unfortunately too difficult to fit this into my schedule and I must regretfully decline.

However, as I have discussed with Dr. Warren, I am deeply interested in the general questions that will be discussed at the conference and I hope there will be other ways in which I can stay in touch with the Foundation's ongoing program. I have already exchanged some of my ideas with Dr. Warren and I have been in very close communication with Dr. Garfield for many years, so that I am sure that I will to some extent be represented by proxy, and I hope that they will also be able to give me some briefings later on about the discussion.

If I may make just a brief comment, I think that in electronic communication systems, we may begin to have the means for some of the diversified and flexible feedback from the community of scientific readers that you describe as impractical at the top of page 4. I agree this may be visionary on a time scale of months but certainly not of years. As always, the other side of peer review is the possible tyranny of the majority; but as long as there remain effective retrieval procedures for reextracting unnoticed or buried contributions, we may be making the best compromise possible.

Yours sincerely,



JL/gel

Please Note new address
effective Sept. 1, 1978

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